



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 August 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
23 AUGUST 1967

1. Hong Kong

The British stuck to their guns and ignored Peking's 48-hour ultimatum to lift the ban on Communist newspapers in Hong Kong. The initial Chinese response when the ultimatum expired yesterday was relatively low-risk, but highly emphatic. Red Guards were loosed on the British Embassy in Peking, which was burned and is out of radio contact.

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So far, the uproar in Peking has not sparked new outbursts in Hong Kong.

2. South Vietnam

Final voter registration figures--5.85 million--are up eleven percent over the total for last year's Constituent Assembly election. The biggest increases are in II Corps where better security and a substantial refugee flow into government-controlled areas have helped. There is little change in the populous Delta provinces, however, and the Saigon area shows a small decline.

3. NATO

A NATO exercise may be cancelled because of Italy's dislike for the Greek military regime. The exercise is supposed to begin in Greece this Saturday, but the Italians refuse to let their forces operate from Greece. The British and Belgians may drop out if the Italians do.

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4. Nigeria

Major General Gowon, who heads the federal government, yesterday gave Ambassador Mathews a list of the Soviet equipment federal Nigerian forces have or will receive. For just over \$5 million, Lagos has bought:

- 8 MIG-17s
- 2 MIG-15s (trainers)
- 3 patrol boats
- assorted munitions, communications gear, and radar.

Also, as part of the deal, the Soviets will put the jets together and train Nigerian pilots to fly them. While the MIGs are not likely to see action right away because of the pilot situation, the Nigerians apparently have hired some British and South African mercenaries to fly their other aircraft.

5. Saudi Arabia

The Saudis are considering a complete break with the other Arab states on the oil embargo. They are fearful, however, that such a move would trigger an Egyptian-sponsored campaign of terrorism and sabotage.

Saturday a close adviser to King Faysal asked Ambassador Eilts what US support the Saudis could count on if they made the break. He seemed to have in mind moral support and some technical help in keeping the refineries running should they be hit by sabotage.

6. Nonproliferation Treaty

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